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**RESTRICTION ON EXPORT OF NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS TO HAMPER JAPAN'S
RESEARCH ON COMMUNIST CHINA -- TOKYO, MAINICHI, 25 NOV 59**

The state-operated Kuo-chi Shu-tien (International Bookstore) in Peiping recently notified the Japanese book dealers that "there will be a major restriction imposed on export of documents, newspapers, and magazines in 1960." Various Japanese research organs which depend on the import of such materials are fearful that research on Communist China might become very difficult in the future.

On 21 November, Gendai Chugoku Gakkai (Modern China Institute), consisting of about 400 researchers on China, sent a letter to President Ch'u Tu-nan of the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Exchanges with Foreign Countries. The letter read: "Reconsideration is requested so that various documents may be procured as heretofore for the conduct of scientific research." On the same day, the managing director of Daian Shoten (Daian Bookstore), Koike Yoichi, left for Peiping on business.

This restriction on exports seems to contradict the stipulation that "close liaison shall be maintained and talks shall be conducted in the future by means of friendly visits and cultural-scientific exchanges," which had been included in the joint communique on Japan-Communist China exchange announced on 8 June (1959) and signed by Yang Han-sheng, Deputy President, Chinese People's Association for Cultural Exchanges with Foreign Countries, and Nakajima Kenzo, who represented the Nitchu Yoku Kyokai (Japan-China Friendship Society). Future developments are, therefore, being watched with interest because the export restriction is expected to cast a dark shadow over the academic world and over the promotion of future Japan-Communist China exchanges as a whole.

The exchange of documents between Japan and Communist China has been conducted between Peiping's International Bookstore and the Japanese (book) dealers (the big ones are Daian, Yokuto, and Uchiyama) via Hongkong by means of pound sterling settlement through the Bank of England. Despite such indirect trading, the documents exported to Japan have been handled in the same manner as the documents (destined) for Europe and America.

Up to now, there have been about 370 types of documents, newspapers, and magazines exported to Japan from Communist China. These have been ordered in June and December each year by means of the prepayment of estimated prices of monographs and by subscriptions to periodicals. When Japan's book dealers placed orders in June of this year, the International Bookstore sent a reply stating that "only 37 titles could be exported in 1960." The letter did not state the reasons for this restriction. Those which can continue to be exported have such titles as Jen-min Jih-pao

(People's Daily), Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Jen-min Wen-hsueh (People's Literature), and Chung-kuo Ch'ing-nien (Chinese Youth). They do not include titles needed for research, such as Hsin-hua Pan-yueh Kan (New China Semi-monthly) (which compiles articles in local newspapers and magazines under different subjects), scientific magazines, and specialized books and documents on politics, economic, history, and philosophy.

Research on Communist China following the war has not been conducted as it was before the war. Then, it was possible to make on-the-spot surveys and to conduct direct exchange. After the war, reliance has been solely on documents. Consequently, if the documents are not available, a severe blow to the point of complete disruption to research will be dealt.

Four Reasons Considered

The real reasons for the restriction are not known since no reason has been given by the International Bookstore. The following, however, are the composite views of some China researchers in Japan:

1. Domestic Situation -- Because of the Chinese Communist program for complete elimination of illiteracy, the sudden increase in the reading population has brought about a paper shortage. Since the Chinese have their hands full trying to fulfill the domestic demand, there is no capacity for export.
2. Political -- The worsening of Japan-Communist China relations since May 1958 has prompted the imposition of the restriction. Since before the war, Japan has been importing many Chinese Communist documents to conduct research on China. Despite this, worthwhile results in Chinese research have not been obtained. In short, a true picture of Communist China has not been really grasped in Japan. Discontent over the way Japan has been conducting research on China has probably coincided with the political tension existing between Japan and Communist China.
3. Antiespionage -- Japan's purchase of Communist Chinese documents and books has made Communist China suspect that Japan is being used as a base for the collection of intelligence.
4. Exchange of Views Between the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Exchange with Foreign Countries and the International Bookstore -- The former is trying to promote Japan-Communist China cultural exchange, while the latter wants to conduct the trade of documents and to act as their distributor. A lack of liaison was probably discovered by the Chinese Communist government and prompted its blast against bureaucratism in the lower echelon organs.

Views of the Japanese Specialists

Irrespective of the truth or falsehood of the above views, the restriction on the export of documents by the Chinese Communists will bring about immediate havoc among the China researchers in Japan. Therefore, what are the views of the Japanese specialists and the persons concerned and what countermeasures are they considering?

Kuraishi Takeshiro (Honorary Professor, Tokyo University), president of Nitchu Gakujutsu Yuko Senta (Japan-Communist China Scientific Friendship Center), which formed the Zenrin Chugoku Bunko (The Good Neighbor China Library) on 15 August for the promotion of exchanging documents with Communist China, said "Of course, it is necessary to continue requesting a facilitation of exports. Perhaps the libraries and research institutes could exchange documents with Communist China by means of a barter system and the imported documents placed in a centralized location where they could be made available to the general public. The Good Neighbor China Library now has about 2,500 books on China. The headache involved in the exchange is, of course, money: The other side is a country, while this side is like an individual. We could not, therefore, procure in large volume. I hope to visit Communist China next year (1960) and fully explain China research. I also want to effect an exchange of books with the Kuo-li Peiping T'u-shu-kuan (State-Operated Peiping Library)."

Nakajima Kenzo's comment was: "This does not mean that they will stop exports completely. It means that it has become impossible to purchase, as heretofore, without restriction. Therefore, we should try to effect exchanges of necessary documents on a mutual basis. We should ask the Nihon Gakijutsu Kaigi (Japan Science Council) to make a study of how much and what kind of Chinese documents we actually need, and distribution should be made on this basis."

As an emergency measure, both Kuraishi and Nakajima considered the methods of effectively coping with problem of the documents restrictions.

Reconsideration of Research Methods

"The export restriction has given us an opportunity to re-examine China research methods now being conducted in Japan," according to Yogata (or Osakata) Naokichi, one of the directors at the Chugoku Kenkyujo (China Research Institute). He also stated: "Asking for a relaxation of exports because it imposes difficulties on China research is a type of 'thief-ism' and (puts it on the same basis as) 'receiving lacquer-wares.' Japan is the biggest importer of Chinese documents, but we cannot say that Japan has gotten good results in China research. For example, when the 'people's communes' issue emerged, we concentrated on obtaining documents on that particular subject only. This is not a systematic way of doing things. At present, no university in Japan conducts lectures on Modern China. The

problem lies in the dislocated state of China research in Japan. It is necessary that we put unproductive methods of research on a productive basis. In addition, we should pursue this in conjunction with advancing the cultural exchanges based on the program stipulated in the joint communique. With such a basis, we could concretely seek to change the Kishi administration's "hostile policy" and then request the relaxation on exports at the same time."

Communist China Government Should Be Asked to Cope With the Situation

Ando Hikotaro (professor, Waseda University), who is a researcher on the history of modern China, is of the same opinion as Yogata. Touching on the history of China research in Japan, Ando said: "Before the war, we were tied up with the continental policy and also burdened by Confucian traditions of Sinology. Therefore, China research in Japan does not have an (modern) academic tradition. There are many China researchers but within the academic world they are 'localists'." Researchers and research organs are isolated. Scholastically, China research can be described as being in a state of nonspecialization. Thus, because we have been importing more than enough documents, we may have invited misunderstanding. Immediately after the war, the China researchers began to import documents for research. This activity centered around such institutes as the China Research Institute. Recently, their researchers have finally begun to digest the research conducted by the Chinese scholars and have begun to introduce them by including them with the views of the Japanese scholars. In other words, when the time finally came for the conduct of scientific research on a nonpolitical basis, the stoppage of the import of professional magazines and documents has been tantamount to the shutting off the avenues of research for such scholars.

Looking at it from this viewpoint, it seems that the export restriction on documents, newspapers, and magazines by the Chinese Communists has dealt a very serious blow to the academic world. Needless to say, the export restrictions, without quoting the reasons why it was done, can become a stumbling-block in the promotion of future Japan-Communist China cultural exchange. Japanese interested in China research are, therefore, hoping that the Chinese Communist Government and the organs concerned will cope with the situation appropriately "without the remedy worsening the evil."

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